

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-43 stand rejected in the outstanding Official Action. Applicants have amended claims 1-4, 8, 18-22, 26, 32, 35, 38, 40, 41 and 43 and added newly written claims 44 and 45. Therefore, claims 1-45 remain in this application.

The Examiner's acknowledgment of Applicants' claim for priority and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is very much appreciated.

In the paragraphs bridging pages 4 and 5, under "Claim Objections," the Examiner has noted a number of informalities in claims 2, 8, 13 and 20. Applicants have amended the pending claims to overcome these informalities and therefore any further objection to these claims is respectfully traversed.

Beginning on page 2 of the Official Action ("Response to Arguments"), the Examiner reiterates that he interprets the Baker patent as disclosing URLs which he contends are the claimed "requestable datasets." It is clear that the Baker patent is concerned only with a user's terminal having access to protected information, rather than individual humans being able to have access, and thus Baker is substantially different from the claimed invention.

In Applicants' claimed invention, a terminal may or may not have access based upon the identity of the human using the terminal. In Baker's case, any human at an authorized terminal has access to the authorized material. In Applicants' invention, only humans having access can access protected information at a terminal. Baker is restricted to providing accessed information to terminals which are entitled to access, regardless of who the human user is at that terminal ("relational database 114 stores a list of user terminal identification codes and the various URLs that each user terminal should be allowed to transmit to public network 100." Column 4, lines

27-30). Thus, in Baker, any user at an authorized terminal can gain access to confidential information where in applicant's invention only authorized users can gain access to confidential material regardless of the terminal used.

Applicants have emphasized this completely different approach from that of the present invention by confirming that the method relates to human users of a computer system, and those users are in different groups and are given different attributes so as to be able to access data at any terminal and not just specifically authorized terminals. The amendments made to Applicants' independent claims clarify that (a) members of user groups are human, (b) membership in a multi-member user group is evidenced by user group identity information common to group members, and (c) a member of a multiple member user group provides authenticated evidence of membership of that user group to access a data set with an access category common to members of the group. None of these three features which have been emphasized in the amendments to Applicant's independent claims are present or disclosed in the Baker or other cited prior art reference.

A. Members of User Groups are Human

Baker clearly discloses that his "user group members" are actually computer terminals, and with respect to authorization to access information, Baker provides for a differentiation between the terminals, but does not address users of the terminals. This is an extremely important distinction because anyone who requires access to a terminal which is authorized information will obtain that information. Similarly, if you are entitled to receive confidential information, but are not at the appropriate terminal, there is nothing that can be done to provide you with that information.

In Baker, the authorization goes to the terminal and not the user (see the previous quote from Baker, column 4, lines 27-30). In Baker, URL access is provided to terminals without regard to the user of that terminal and whether that user is entitled to such access. Baker does not and cannot restrict unauthorized human access to data. Thus, Baker is not related to human user groups and is restricted only to computer terminal user groups.

B. Membership of Multi-Member User Groups is Evidenced by User Group Identity Information Common to Group Members

Baker has no disclosure relating to membership of a multi-member user group being evidenced by user group identity information common to group members. Baker's equivalent of user group membership is a terminal membership of a group of terminals identified by a group of terminal identification codes. Each terminal is prearranged to have access to data held on predetermined databases, such as the world-wide-web (www). Again, access is permitted or denied based upon the terminal identification and not upon the user at the terminal.

C. A Member of a Multiple Member User Group Provides Authenticated Evidence of Membership in the User Group to Access a Dataset With an Access Category Common to Members of the Group

Baker does not disclose a human member of a multiple member user group providing authenticated evidence of membership of that user group in order to access a dataset with an access category common to members of the group. A human user does not have to provide evidence (authenticated or otherwise) of his or her identity at all in the Baker system. In Baker, if the human is at a terminal which is authorized confidential information, that individual has access to the confidential information. There is no requirement in Baker that an individual

human provide evidence of being a member of a user group or that the user group has a common data access category.

As the above three features are now clearly set out in each of Applicants' independent claims, and because these features are not present in Baker and, indeed, because Baker would lead one of ordinary skill in the art away from these features, there is certainly no basis for rejection of claims under §102 as being anticipated by Baker.

Claims 1-3, 5, 11-13, 17, 19-21, 23, 29, 31, 32, 38 and 41 stand rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Baker (U.S. Patent 5,695[6],898). As noted above, Baker only discloses a system for providing security of data from terminal access and not terminal user access. As a result, Baker by itself fails to anticipate the subject matter of Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 19, 32, 35, 38, 40, 41 and 43 and claims dependent thereon. As a result, any further rejection under 35 USC §102 is respectfully traversed.

Applicants offer newly written independent claims 44 and 45, with similar limitations as amended independent claim 1, but with somewhat narrower language and requests consideration of these independent claims as well.

Inasmuch as all pending claims depend from one of the above enumerated independent claims, the above comments are herein incorporated by reference. To the extent that the rejections are under the provisions of 35 USC §103, rather than §102, the outstanding Official Action does not indicate where the secondary reference discloses the above features noted to be missing from the Baker reference. Because these features must be disclosed in at least one of the combination references, the failure to disclose such features evidences the lack of a *prima facie*

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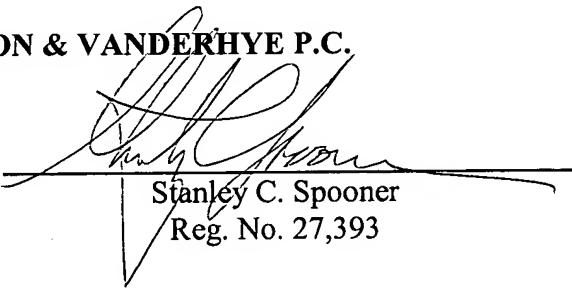
case of obviousness and therefore any further rejection of independent claims 1, 19, 32, 35, 38, 40, 41 and 43-45 or claims dependent thereon is respectfully traversed.

Having responded to all objections and rejections set forth in the outstanding Official Action, it is submitted that claims 1-45 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of the above claims, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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